

Fund Raising and Event Committees Formed

Special points of interest:

- Committees Formed
- Dates Set
- Preliminary Calendar Formed
- Meeting Night Changed

At the February 8th general membership meeting it was decided to move forward with our membership building and fundraising efforts by forming an ad hoc committee to plan the April fundraiser. Initial plans are for committee members Ricia Maxie, Tammy Tanner, Mary Chatfield, Marilyn Beverly and Tom Colkett to meet next Tuesday, Feb. 15, to create a firm plan for the April fundraiser which will be some kind of multi-family yard sale.

Following this meeting, on Feb. 22 we will have a phone bank at a location to be decided soon (possibly McDonald and Sons funeral home in Cumming) to begin our outreach. EVERYONE is encouraged to attend this important function. We will start by making calls to people identified as Strong Democrats on Votebuilder. We will be asking them to get involved

with the party, to attend meetings, to contribute to the treasury if possible by paying dues, to contribute items to the multi-family yard sale.

This is all part of a plan that will result in significant growth for the Forsyth Democratic Party, but it requires a growing level of activity in the county. Recent statistics from the Democratic Party of Georgia show that the phone calls leading up to the November general election significantly increased the turnout percentages for the groups that were targeted. Our plan involves solidifying our base strong Democrats then reaching out to find those in the community that share our ideals of fairness and dignity and caring for our fellow citizens and bringing them into the fold so that by election 2012 the Democratic Party in Forsyth County is strong, organized and ready to turn

Georgia BLUE.

New Officers Installed



Outgoing chair, Ricia Maxie, recently installed the new officers for 2011-12. Pictured above: Tammy Tanner (Secretary), Angie Rigney (Vice-Chair), Tom Colkett (Chair), Mary Chatfield (Treasurer) and Marcus Gunter (Vice-chair for Affirmative action)

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Can We? Should We? How to do it?

We must grow the Democratic party! One way to do that is to widen our base into other communities. It has been proposed that an effective way to reach into the Latino community would be to establish ESL classes run by the Democratic party of Forsyth County.

The benefits would be access

to the community, confirmation of the Democratic Party as the "Big Tent", and providing a valuable service to the community that tends to lead toward more educated, better informed citizens that are prepared to get involved in politics in a meaningful way.

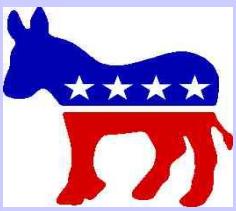
This can only lead to a more inclusive and larger more vital

party that can push back against the entrenched and better organized Republican party in Forsyth County.

Any one interested in this idea? If so, let me know your thoughts and what you're willing to do.

Tom Colkett

tcolkett@gmail.com



"This is our generations Sputnik moment."
Barrack Obama

"We should be able to eat the fish in our streams: know that the water our children drink and the food they eat are safe;"



February, March 2011 Calendar of Events

- **Feb 8**, General Meeting
- **Feb 12** Dist. 9 Meeting
- **Feb 15** –Committee forming details for April event
- **Feb 22**-Phone "party" to drive April event (SD)
- **Feb 24**-Disability Recognition Day. Rally at the Capitol 11-12:30

- **Mar 15**, Gen Meeting
- -(Date-TBD)-Phone "party" drive April event (SD)
- Committee calls to own district (SD)
- **Quarterly goal analysis**

For more details, or to find out how you can participate in any of these events call Tom Colkett @ 770-316-7609 or email: tcolkett@gmail.com

Democratic Party of Georgia Platform (excerpts) and discussion

Summary Point:

Georgia Democrats believe we have a moral obligation to leave our children and grandchildren with an earth as safe, beautiful and majestic as the one bequeathed to us by our parents and grandparents.

Related Text from Preamble:

"Stewarding and protecting the earth is our sacred

responsibility. We have a moral obligation...We should be able to eat the fish in our streams: know that the water our children drink and the food they eat are safe;"

Nervously watching the new Republican majority in the House we see the attacks forming on the EPA and must know that they are coming after the FDA as well. Under the

guise of "budgetary responsibility" they are going to insure that we go back to the days of rivers catching on fire, steadily decreasing air quality, decreased regulation of food producers and handlers. It is our solemn duty to do everything in our power to protect our children and grandchildren from these ideologues. All politics is LOCAL. Building our Forsyth

Georgia Forest Watch

The mission of the Georgia Forest Watch:... "to promote management that leads to naturally self-sustaining forests and watershed within the more than 850,000 acres of national forest lands in Georgia; to engage and educate the public to join in this effort; and to promote preservation of this legacy for future generations."

Last Summer participants in a

GFW group snorkeled on the Chattooga River inside the Chattahoochee National Forest. The water there is pristine because it's protected by inclusion in the huge National Forest Lands against runoff from farms, erosion deposits caused by clear cutting of the forest and, as a result, contains more species of aquatic life than in the watersheds of Northern California and Oregon

combined! Also, the water is clear which makes for great snorkeling!

For more info about this important and worthwhile group go to: www.gafw.org

Beyond the Book Discussion Group – May 4th, 2011 – Sharon Forks Library

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Rebecca Skoot, 2010**

Henrietta Lacks was a poor, African American tobacco farm worker in Virginia in the 1940's. While undergoing treatment for cervical cancer at John Hopkins University Hospital in 1951, doctors and lab technicians discovered that Henrietta's tumor cells were extraordinary as they would continuously reproduce long after being removed from her body. Henrietta had multiple samples removed from her body, without her knowledge or consent.

While her descendants cannot even afford health care, her cells (which have been named "HeLa Cells") have been reproduced billions of times and led to the establishment of biological research around the world, that had never been possible. Her cells have been reproduced so much that the combined weight of all the cells would exceed 50 million metric tons. They have been used in everything from developing the first Polio vaccine to cloning and in vitro fertilization.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skoot -2010 looks at the fascinating story of Henrietta as well as the "life" of her HeLa cells. It discusses the ethical questions around medical research – the unanswered questions that are just as pertinent today as they were in 1951.

If you are interested in participating in this book discussion, please register at your local library branch, or call 770-781-9840.



Henrietta Lacks
1920-1951

North Georgia Great Decisions

North Georgia College & State University is bringing the classroom to the community!

Announcing a new eight-week community education series. Participation is free and open to the public.

6:30 to 8:30 pm at Sharon Forks Library, 2820 Old Atlanta Road. Attend one or all of the sessions to learn about and discuss these topics with faculty members

from NGCSU.

1. Rebuilding Haiti, Dr. Tamara Spike, Tue, 2/15
2. U.S. National Security, Dr. Chris Jespersen, Tue., 2/22
3. Horn of Africa, Dr. Tim May, Tuesday, March 1
4. Responding to the Financial Crisis, Dr. Dlynn Armstrong-Williams, Tue, March 8
5. Germany Ascendant, Dr. Richard Byers, Mon. Mar. 14
6. Sanctions and Nonproliferation, Dr. J.T. Kwon, Tue. Mar. 22
7. The Caucasus, Dr. Jon Miner, Tue. 3/29
8. Global Governance, Dr. Christian Harris, Tuesday 4/5

**Participation
is free and
open to the
public.**

About Forsyth Democratic Journal

This is the **Initial Issue** of this Journal (and sure to be a valuable collectors item some day!).

I see it as a beginning of increasing communication in our Democratic community. With it we can share our plans, visions, schedules and enthusiasms as we build the Democratic party into a real force in local and state politics.

My hope is that everyone will participate in this endeavor. If you're aching to be heard on an issue please feel free to write a column and send it to: tcolkett@gmail.com, keeping in mind that there's a limit of 125 to 250 words to keep it manageable. Also, please share your enthusiasms or events that you think we should all be

aware of.

I'd like to try to make this a monthly newsletter if possible and it would be a lot easier, and more effective if there were lots of input from the Democratic community. Any suggestions about the future of this newsletter are very welcome!

Thanks, I hope you enjoy this first issue.



**Forsyth County
Democratic Party**

Chair: Tom Colkett
Vice Chair: Angie Rigney
Vice Chair for Affirmative Action: Marcus Gunter
Secretary: Tammy Tanner
Treasurer: Mary Chatfield

Contact: tcolkett@gmail.com

**Government by for and of the
PEOPLE!**



- To seek and encourage qualified candidates for public office, to support Democratic nominees, to perform such primary and election functions as required by law
- To strengthen the Party Locally, in the District and throughout State
- To promote development of Party organizations and activities
- To elect State Committee members of the Democratic Party of Georgia to represent Forsyth County,
- To create a positive image of the Democratic Party in the County
- To perform such other duties as may be required by the State County Committee
- To invite all Progressive voters in the County to become actively engaged in the Party
- To promote and add logistical support to the State Affirmative Action Program,
- To determine Party Districts and Apportionment.
- To Pay for and Keep Track of these activities
- To raise funds for the above purposes,

www.forsythcountydemocrats.org

NOTICE: In order to make the meeting time more convenient we have changed the meeting date from the second to the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. We are possibly switching to McDonald and Sons Funeral Home and will send out notices when this is confirmed..

Disability Recognition Day

Unlock the Doors to Real Communities! Is the theme for the Georgia Council On Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) 13th Annual Disability Day at the Capitol that invites people with disabilities, family members, policy makers, business leaders and providers to gather at the Capitol in celebration of community, advocacy, friendship, and achievement? In 2010, nearly 2,000 Georgians attended the public rally on the steps of the State Capitol in a powerful show of support for disability rights. In 2011, Disability Day attendance is expected to grow, strengthening its presence and position among the largest events on record held annually during the official legislative session. 2011 also marks the 40th anniversary of the historic Developmental Disabilities Bill of Rights Act of 1971 and the creation of agencies such as GCDD throughout the US.